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(St. Louis, MO) -- Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3), member of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, released the following statement reacting to President Barack Obama's announcement regarding his vision for a high-speed passenger rail network earlier today.

***"I share President Obama's vision for a network of high-speed passenger trains connecting communities throughout the United States. In addition to bringing people together, it will create thousands of construction jobs here at home and put us on a path toward energy independence.***

***"It is exciting to see long-planned Midwest Hub becoming a real possibility linking Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City among other communities. As my former Republican House Colleague Ray LaHood pointed out, 'We simply can't build the economy of the future on the transportation networks of the past.'"***

***"As a member of the House Transportation Committee, I look forward to working with Governor Nixon and all involved parties to connect Missouri's biggest economic engines St. Louis and Kansas City, as well as communities in between, with high-speed trains so that travelers are given a new more practical transportation option and to spur economic development in our state."***

-- Congressman Russ Carnahan

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included \$8 billion in funding to begin work on the network of high-speed trains and create thousands of jobs. Congressman Carnahan was a supporter of the Recovery Act and also supports including an additional \$5 billion investment over the next five years to fully implement a network of proposed high-speed trains.

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